

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process cartridge detachably mounted to an image forming apparatus, said cartridge comprising:
 - a photoconductive element; and
 - a housing configured to house said photoconductive element, said housing comprising a guide portion configured to guide the process cartridge.
2. The process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said guide portion faces one of an inner wall of the image forming apparatus and another process cartridge adjoining said process cartridge.
3. The process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein guide portion is configured to guide said another process cartridge adjoining said process cartridge.
4. The process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said guide portion is configured to slidably engage with a portion of another process cartridge adjoining said process cartridge.
5. The process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said guide portion varies in shape in accordance with a location of said guide portion in the image forming apparatus.
6. The process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein a configuration of said guide portion is one of being separately formed from said housing and being integrated with said housing.
7. An image forming apparatus, comprising: an image transfer mechanism; and a process cartridge detachably mounted, the process cartridge comprising:
 - a photoconductive element; and
 - a housing configured to house said photoconductive element, said housing comprising a guide portion configured to guide the process cartridge.
8. An image forming apparatus, comprising: an image transfer mechanism; and

a plurality of process cartridges detachably mounted to said image forming apparatus , each one of the plurality of process cartridges being arranged parallel to the others and forming an image for a single color, each of the process cartridges comprising:

a photoconductive element; and

a housing configured to house said photoconductive element, said housing comprising a guide portion configured to guide the process cartridge.

9. A process cartridge detachably mounted to an image forming apparatus, said cartridge comprising:

image carrying means for carrying an image; and

housing means for housing said image carrying means, said housing means further comprising guiding means for guiding the process cartridge.

10. The process cartridge according to Claim 9, wherein said guiding means faces one of an inner wall of the image forming apparatus and another process cartridge adjoining said process cartridge.

11. The process cartridge according to Claim 9, wherein said guiding means guides another process cartridge adjoining said process cartridge.

12. The process cartridge according to Claim 9, wherein said guiding means slidably engages with a portion of process cartridge adjoining said process cartridge.

13. The process cartridge according to Claim 9, wherein said guiding means varies in shape in accordance with a location of said guiding means in the image forming apparatus.

14. The process cartridge according to Claim 9, wherein a configuration of said guiding means is one of being separately formed from said housing means and being integrated with said housing means.

15. An image forming apparatus, comprising:

an image forming means; and

a process cartridge detachably mounted therein, the process cartridge comprising:

image carrying means for developing an image; and

housing means for housing said image carrying means, said housing means further comprising guiding means for guiding the process cartridge.

16. An image forming apparatus, comprising:
an image forming means; and
a plurality of process cartridges, each process cartridge of said plurality being detachably mounted to said image forming apparatus, being arranged in parallel to the other cartridges, and being configured to form an image for a single color, each of the process cartridges comprising:
image carrying means for developing an image; and
housing means for housing said image carrying means, said housing means further comprising guiding means for guiding the process cartridge.

17. A method of providing a process cartridge detachably mounted in an image forming apparatus, the method comprising:
providing a photoconductive element; and
storing said photoconductive element in a housing comprising a guide portion configured to guide the process cartridge.

18. The method according to Claim 17, wherein said storing further comprises arranging said guide portion to face one of an inner wall of the image forming apparatus and another process cartridge adjoining said process cartridge.

19. The method according to Claim 17, wherein said guide portion is configured to guide another process cartridge adjoining said process cartridge.

20. The method according to Claim 17, wherein said guide portion is configured to slidably engage with a portion of another process cartridge adjoining said process cartridge.

21. The method according to Claim 17, wherein said guide portion varies in shape in accordance with a location of said guide portion in the image forming apparatus.

22. The method according to Claim 17, wherein a configuration of said guide portion is one of being separately formed from said housing and being integrated with said housing.

23. A method of making an image forming apparatus, the method comprising:
providing an image transfer mechanism; and
providing a process cartridge detachably mounted in said image forming apparatus,
the process cartridge comprising:
a photoconductive element; and
a housing configured to store said photoconductive element said housing
further comprising a guide portion configured to guide the process cartridge.

24. A method of making an image forming apparatus, the method comprising:
providing an image transfer mechanism; and
providing a plurality of process cartridges, each process cartridge of said plurality
being detachably mounted to said image forming apparatus, being arranged in parallel to the
other cartridges, and being configured to form an image for a single color, each one of the
process cartridges comprising:
a photoconductive element; and
a housing configured to store said photoconductive element, said housing
further comprising a guide portion configured to guide the process cartridge.